

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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FOR THE ATTENTION OF JOSEPH S. NYE

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM ISLAMABAD DATED APRIL 22, 1977 SENT
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO KARACHI, LAHORE, DACCA, KABUL, NEW DELHI,
CINCPAC IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 3992

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PK, PINT

SUBJECT: VIOLENCE ERUPTS IN PESHAWAR

1. THE NORTHWEST FRONTIER PROVINCE HAS BEEN UNUSUALLY QUIET THROUGH-
OUT THE GOVERNMENT/OPPOSITION CONFRONTATION. WE HAVE BELIEVED
THIS WAS AN INTENTIONAL OPPOSITION TACTIC TO AVOID THE
CHARGE THE OPPOSITION MOVEMENT WAS ANTI-PAKISTAN -- A CLAIM
THE GOVERNMENT WOULD PROBABLY MAKE IF THE PAKISTAN NATIONAL
ALLIANCE STARTED AGITATION IN THE FRONTIER. THE QUIET
ENDED TODAY WITH A REPORT FROM OUR CONSULATE THAT VIOLENCE
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HAS BROKEN OUT IN PESHAWAR.

2. OUR CONSUL REPORTS THAT THE NATIONWIDE STRIKE CALLED
FOR TODAY HAS BEEN GENERALLY EFFECTIVE IN PESHAWAR
WITH MOST PRIVATE TRANSPORTATION OFF THE STREETS AND
ALMOST ALL PRIVATE BUSINESSES CLOSED. GOVERNMENT OFFICES
AND BANKS REMAINED OPEN FOR MOST OF THE DAY. AN OPPOSITION

PROCESSION IN SADAR (IN THE NEW CITY) BEGAN STONING A STATE BANK BUILDING THIS MORNING. THE POLICE AND FEDERAL SECURITY FORCE OPENED FIRE ON THE CROWD AND ACCORDING TO LOWER LEVEL POLICE SOURCES, FOUR TO SIX PEOPLE WERE KILLED AND "MANY" WOUNDED.

3. FOLLOWING THE SHOOTING, THE STREETS BEGAN TO FILL UP WITH DEMONSTRATORS WHO STONED A NUMBER OF BUILDINGS. ROCKS WERE THROWN AT THE USAID OFFICE, BUT OUR CONSUL SAYS NOT BECAUSE IT WAS A USG OFFICE BUILDING. FOLLOWING AFTERNOON PRAYERS, A PNA PROCESSION WAS BROKEN UP WHEN THE POLICE LATHI-CHARGED THE MARCHERS.

4. CONSUL PESHAWAR REPORTS THAT AS OF 16600 LOCAL OPPOSITION SUPPORTERS ARE OUT IN NUMBERS IN THE STREETS OF THE OLD AND NEW CITIES. THE ARMY IS NOT IN EVIDENCE AND THE POLICE AND FSF STILL SEEM RESPONSIBLE FOR LAW AND ORDER. POLICE SOURCES ALSO STATE THEY HAVE PICKED UP UNSUBSTANTIATED REPORTS THAT BOTH THE PPP AND THE PNA HAVE GIVEN ORDERS TO THEIR SUPPORTERS TO ARM THEMSELVES. SAME SOURCES SPECULATE THAT IF THESE REPORTS ARE TRUE, AND IN LIGHT OF TODAY'S SHOOTINGS, THERE IS STRONG POSSIBILITY OF CURFEW BEING IMPOSED IN THE CITY BEGINNING THIS EVENING. BYROADE
UUNQUOTE VANCE

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